

DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
DAMMERON VALLEY FIRE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT BOARD
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 24th, 2020
Dammeron Valley Fire Station
Accommodations made Via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82247077640>

Board Members:
Chair: Mack Sorensen
Vice-Chair: Larry Carlon
Treasurer: Curt Shelley
Clerk: Ryan Andersen
Member at Large: Rick Johnson

Call to Order / Roll Call conducted by Mack Sorensen, Chair. Other Board Members present were Larry Carlon, Curt Shelley, Ryan Anderson, and Rick Johnson.

Approval of Agenda -A motion was made by Ryan Anderson to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Rick Johnson and all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion to Amend the 2020 Budget and Reimburse the General Fund for Personnel Related Expenses presented by Curtis Shelley, Treasurer. To stay within compliance with State regulations, in February 2020 the DVF SSD Board approved a \$20,000 transfer of funds from the Operating Budget to Reserves. It was reported to the State Auditor's office that Reserve Funds are now Capital Project Funds. This expense was not budgeted from the Operating Fund. In September 2020, the DVF SSD hired a full-time paid Fire Chief with an annual expense of \$48,000, prorated for 2020 for four months at \$16,000. This expense was also not budgeted. The 2020 Fire Season was unprecedented locally. DVFR charges and is approved for Wildlands MOU payouts. Additional expenses for personnel and repairs to brush trucks associated with brush response has been incurred. Approximate benefit/additional income to DVF of \$14,000 after related expenses. November 2020 EMT class to train and certify 10 volunteers for service to Dammeron Valley and EMS service area beginning Feb/March 2021. DVFR negotiated a significant discount for this class, however, a \$5,000 deposit is required in 2020 to secure and begin instruction. Year over year there is an increase in emergency calls, including medical, fire, and vehicle-related accidents. DVFR introduces the first Grant Writing Committee (6 community volunteers) and the first graduating class of certified Fire Apparatus Driver Operators (10 community volunteers) with no significant impact on the budget.

Presentation of 2021 Budget to the Board presented by Chief Chet Barnes. Chief Barnes thanked the Board for the work done and the busy exhilarated process required recently. He also thanked the community for their patience and understanding. The budget is based on a strategic plan. The population is currently 1,400 residents and EMS covers 3,300 residents in 110 sq miles. Populations have increased 110% since 2010. A lot of the proposed increase is catching up with increased growth. Chief Barnes shared history of recent fires over the last year and EMS calls. A breakdown of the currently paid personnel and volunteer personnel was provided. The established objectives in the Department's strategic plan were described including but not limited to a community risk assessment, determine and meet adequate staffing levels, develop a comprehensive training program, implement career development and succession program, develop equipment replacement

program, develop community outreach initiative, implement wildland training and appointment program, meet NFPA 1720 standards, etc. Based on that strategic plan, the presented budget was developed.

Staffing coverage is budgeted for \$42,000 which will be funded by the MOU and Deployment with DNR. If those funds are not received, that expense is not incurred. Chief Barnes explained each expense line item on the budget:

BUDGET ITEMS	2021 BUDGET
INCOME	
DVFSSD Annual Fee @ \$480 per Parcel	\$ 227,040
MOU DNR Wildland	\$ 15,000
Grant income	\$ 10,000
PROJECT/DEPLOYMENT DNR	\$ 15,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 267,040
EXPENSES	
ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATION	
Community Association Management	\$ 8,900
Insurance	\$ 8,000
Legal	\$ 1,500
Professional Fees/Auditor	\$ 1,500
Licenses & Misc. Fees	\$ 2,540
FIRE STATION EXPENSES	
Maintenance	\$ 6,000
Supplies	\$ 6,500
Fire Fighting Equipment	\$ 11,500
Utilities	\$ 6,000
VEHICLE EXPENSES	
Maintenance	\$ 7,000
Supplies/Fuel	\$ 5,000
Equipment	\$ 2,000
PERSONNEL	
Chief	\$ 49,200
Medical Director	\$ 6,000
EMS Educator	\$ 3,600
Call Stipend	\$ 12,000
Standby Time	\$ 5,000
Uniforms	\$ 9,000
TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS	
EMT	\$ 17,500
Publications and Reference Materials	\$ 1,000
Winter Fire School	\$ 2,000
FF I and II	\$ 2,500
Driver Operator	\$ 2,500
CPR	\$ 1,500
FIRE PREVENTION	
Community Outreach Initiative	\$ 3,500
STRATEGIC FUND	
Fire/EMS PPE	\$ 12,500
Staffing/Unit Coverage	\$ 42,000
Wildland Program	\$ 9,350
Misc. Expenses	\$ 7,500
CAPITAL PROJECTS	

Reserve Contribution	\$ 13,950
	2021 BUDGET
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 267,040

Chief Barnes explained that fire and EMS PPE is costing more because of the COVID requirements and call logging. The NFPA 1720 minimum standards were discussed. It will take roughly two years for the Department to become compliant. By becoming compliant, the DVFR will have further opportunity for grant funding. Liability is a real threat to the community. He is motivated and inspired by the volunteers. He has an obligation to make sure they are trained and safe. 2021 fees are a catch up to get in compliance and ensure long-term success. The goal is safety and sustainability. There is no debt in the department, which now has quality equipment and solid people. Chief Barnes informed the public that his door is open to discuss the budget and other concerns at any time.

Presentation of 2021 Budget and Annual Fee Increase to the Public made by Mack Sorensen, Chair. Mack Sorensen relayed history pertaining to the dissolution of the previous Board, the appointment of the new Board in March 2020. He also addressed rumors involving Dave Arenaz and expressed appreciation for his time and energy that has been put into the department. The process that led to the Board’s eventual decision to vote in favor of a paid Fire Chief was explained. The struggle to provide EMS service over the past eight years was discussed. Mack Sorensen reiterated the process conducted in the hiring of Chief Barnes. Curt Shelley stated that his opinion of the Board and fire department is that they are a public safety entity for the benefit of the community. Neither the Board nor Fire Department is here as a foil for grievances towards individuals or past events. Any conversations or opinions regarding an individual or intent of a prior board or prior department doesn’t have a place here tonight. Mack Sorensen explained the procedure of the budget hearing in which the Chief presents the needed budget to the Board, and the Board presents that Budget to the public. Rick Johnson shared the history of the SSD as it was governed prior by the DVLA. It was voted into effect and came under the County and State. During that time, the mandate of NFPA 1720 had not been adopted. Mack Sorensen added that the State passed it as a law and then the County adopted it as a mandate. Rick Johnson reiterated the importance of a professional Chief to ensure compliance with those regulations.

Open Discussion for Public Comments:

Shane Wilson inquired what the boundaries are for the Fire Department. Mack Sorensen explained that EMS goes from Snow Canyon Parkway to Brookside to Gunlock, which is a boundary set by the County. Shane Wilson inquired who pays the expense for supplies within other districts’ boundaries. Ryan Anderson explained the mutual aid agreements currently in place. The amount that goes to other areas is very marginal. Mack Sorensen explained that there would be discussions with the County in this regard in the near future.

Carla Saunders thanked the Chief for accepting the position. She stated she has no concerns over the proposed budget. She additionally thanked the Board for everything being done to give the community the resources to keep their families and homes safe.

Drea Markham requested clarification on the \$42,000 for staffing that may go away depending on funding. Curt Shelley stated the Chief has framed up two dormitory rooms for staffing. He

explained the challenges with Fire response as the community is aging and volunteers for Fire are lacking which results in gaps where potential volunteers are home and can respond. The staff coverage is to ensure we have part-time reserves to put in the house during peak hours. The goal is to ensure we have 24-hour coverage. That money is set aside to ensure that coverage. Chet Barnes added that it is based on seasonal peak hours. If wildland is deployed, they generate more income than they are making. It is based on bringing in alternate revenue.

Pat Johnson expressed he is not happy about the fee increase, especially this year with all the turmoil all around. He has stood in his front yard three different times and watched fires, and if the conditions had been different, the only thing between him and ashes is the fire department. After the flood, the fire department was the first ones there. The other departments in the area came and pumped 380,00 gallons of water out of his basement. He is happy to pay it and support the Board, the Chief, and the staff who put everything on the line. He supports the objectives and plans.

Mack Sorensen explained that if the SSD is turned over to the County, a mill levy will be put in place. Based on the average home value in Dammeron Valley of \$572,000 as of October 2020, the mill levy would be \$851 per year for fire service. He discouraged anyone from letting the County come in and handle the tax bill.

Ryan Anderson wanted the volunteers to know he appreciates them. He was appointed because he wanted the firefighters to be safe when he found out the PPE is the same ones used 18 years ago. That means they aren't protected, for previous boards that let that go is huge negligence. He was against hiring a full-time chief until he found these things out. He expressed gratitude for Chief Barnes for having the courage to step up and come here.

Shane Wilson inquired how many volunteers are going to be at the station ready to respond? Ryan Anderson stated there are currently 5-6 and the plan is to have two members available at all times. Mack Sorensen added that there is a commitment from people that will be here in the Valley at certain times on certain days ready to respond. There will always be four people in the valley so there is coverage 24-7. They will have a certain amount of shifts each week and will have fire 1 and fire 2. That is the strategic plan.

Ron Hansen inquired as to when are other communities are going to become a part of the funding. Mack Sorensen explained EMS only serves other areas, the fire department only covers here. Mutual aid is for fire. The board is going to look into it with the county.

Brent Carlon expressed gratitude for Don Wallace and Lance Cornwall regarding a call at his home in the past. What he has heard over all these years 2-3 years, is we are making up for budgets that were cut, out of date equipment, making up for the lost time that should've been done years ago, and a possible decrease in future years. Mack Sorensen explained the budget can be relieved with the MOU's in place.

Larry Carlon welcomed all in attendance. He stated that those that do participate in the meetings understand the expenses and the income. Participation would result in support of the Board's efforts. He added that he is not going to take personal liability for not having the proper equipment.

Ron Hansen thanked the fire department as over 10 years he has had to call the department ten times, with a response time of 5 minutes each time. He thanked those volunteers who were always there.

Curt Shelley explained that this is a very exciting time for this department and this community. There are people that have rallied together for this department. For anyone who has any interest in volunteering, there are groups that spontaneously conform. It's a point in time where you can step in and do something to do something for each other and that's what this is.

Approval of the Amended 2020 Budget by Board Motion. Ryan Anderson made a motion to approve the amended 2020 budget. Larry Carlon seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Funding the 2020 Budget Shortfalls by Board Motion. Curt Shelley made a motion to approve the funding of the 2020 budget shortfalls. Larry Carlon seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 2021 Budget by Board Motion. A motion was made by Rick Johnson to approve the 2021 proposed budget as outlined. Larry Carlon seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Mack Sorensen thanked everyone in participation and apologized everyone couldn't be here in person. He requested no more character assassinations of Dave Arenaz. This is the beginning of a long-term solution and this decision was made carefully. If anyone cannot afford it, there is a person in the Valley who has offered to pay the upgraded fee for those families. We have never had a professionally prepared budget until now. He thanked everyone who participated. He thanked CAM and the rest of the Board.

Adjournment - A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ryan Anderson. Larry Carlon seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.